

Boxer Flash Is Dead

by HELEN GREENSTEIN

"We're never going to flash it. The tradition of Boxer is defunct."

This blunt statement by Phil Miner, president of the Black Student Union, seems to once and for all put an end to the excitement that the antique mascot has often created on campus.

Many members of the BSU, who captured the dog in a throw-out in fall '69, seem to feel that Boxer is gone for good. The mad scramble and following fight during throw-outs and flashes seem to be part of the reason. As one BSU member says, "Black people today are always being accused of various violent incidences. This is one morbid, barbaric tradition which must be brought to a halt...NOW!"

Added to this denunciation of the tradition are rumors that Boxer is to be melted down and remolded into black power medallions for BSU members, or perhaps be re-shaped into the form of a panther.

However, these rumors are contradicted by other members of the BSU who say Boxer is still in his original form and is still to be part of a tradition. Jim Crossland claims that he has hidden the Boxer in the White House, and Joe Messenge, who didn't even attend Pacific last year, claims that Boxer spent a day at his house on the way to Washington D.C.

Moses Williams (who was driving the car that left with Boxer last year), and Cliff Wood claim that after they grabbed Boxer, they mailed him to Germany where he is serving as a symbol to crippled children in a hospital on a military base. They claim that he will eventually be brought back and either sold or thrown-out again. They also added that if they receive any monetary offers Boxer might reappear faster.

If any of these far-fetched stories are true, it would not be the first time Boxer has traveled. Boxer's long history at Pacific started when he was presented to the school in 1896 by the mother of an alum, Dr. J. E. Walker, class of 1867. Dr. Walker was a missionary in China who purchased Boxer for \$5 in 1881 from a member of the Laing family who was fleeing from the Long Haired Rebels. The bronze Boxer was the Laing family coat-of-arms and goes back to 1580.

When Boxer arrived at Pacific he was placed on a pedestal in front of the chapel where he remained until a speaker in 1900 told of an eastern university that had a foreign idol as its mascot. Boxer was "stolen" by a student the next day and the tradition began.

Since then Boxer has been the victim of numerous pranks and plans. Several stories and tails of Boxer are recalled by Hank Butzlaff who attended Pacific from 1953-'56, and is now back to continue his education.

Hank claims that he and five other boys who were all members of the former Phi Beta fraternity, had possession of the Boxer in about '55. He recounts the many times they flashed Boxer to "keep the tradition going." Herrick Hall, then a girl's dorm, was a favorite place, and the guys used to place the "dog" on the mantel and have fun while the girls attempted to get past the six well-built, well-muscled men.

Among Hank's memories of stories and rumors of by-

gone days and adventures of Boxer is one of the early fifties, when the possessors of Boxer put him up for grabs frozen into a 300 pound block of ice. The fight waged for about eight hours.

Another popular tale is that when Boxer disappeared from the campus for several years during World War II, he was accompanying a pilot on his overseas flights.

One of the most famous tales reports that three men who had Boxer took their girl friends with them when they rented a plot in a cemetery and buried the symbol. Later, the girls came back, and with the help of the dean of students, moved the image to their own hiding place.

One more tale that Hank recalls is of Boxer's being hocked in a Portland pawnshop by its temporary owners. Apparently the owner unknowingly displayed the idol in the window, and one night some Pacific students happened to walk by, break the window, and take off with the dog. The administration was left with the bill.

How much of these stories is truth is not known, however, whether false or not, Hank feels that Boxer added something to campus life. "Boxer was something that was our own little thing," he reminisced. "It molded us all together as a group."

Now that the emphasis seems to be on individuality and identity of self, views on traditions have apparently changed.

Boxer may have been thrown-out for the last time into the chasm between generations and changing values.

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